spoke of the project now operating at Columbia to collect and record such material.

". . . . . The Vermont Historical Society has a double field of activity. It is in half a dozen ways familiarizing Vermonters with the life of Vermont in the past. In the last ten years it has made more of such information popular with Vermonters and those interested in Vermont than in decades before. Seeing the life of Vermont in historical perspective, also, leads to considering the life of the State today — its progress and its losses—for unfortunately advances always are paid for with some losses. Records of the present are as much a part of history as records of the past.

"The increased interest in Vermont history argues well for the spirit of the State; and the effort of the Vermont Historical Society to increase its present membership deserves the support of thousands of Vermonters. The Society was fortunate in the services of Mr. Newton; it is equally so in obtaining those of Professor Peach to succeed him."

The September issue will appear in a new format with typography by Vrest Orton of Weston, Vermont

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MONTPELIER VERMONT

Hon. Leon S. Gay, President
Dr. Arthur W. Peach, Director
Mrs. Madelyn Davidson, Editor
Telephone: Montpelier 1500, Extension 39

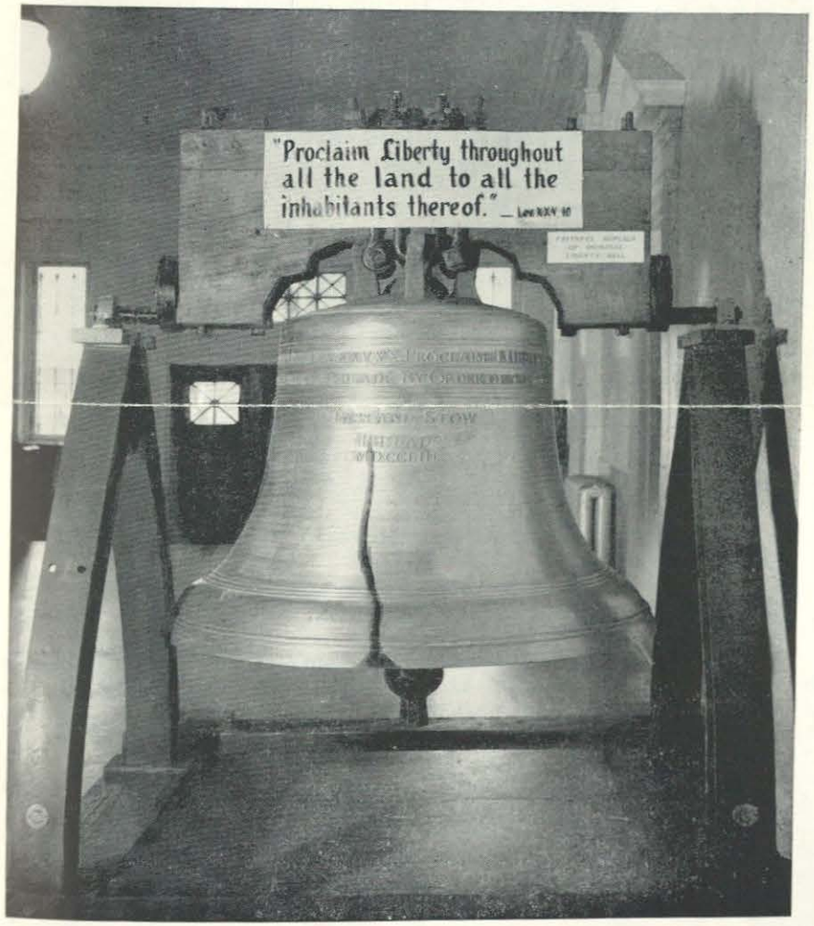
VHS *News and Notes*
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Montpelier, Vermont

Sec. 34.66
P. L. & R.

VHS *News and Notes*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 AUGUST, 1950 NUMBER 12



VERMONT'S LIBERTY BELL

This bell by direction of Governor Arthur is now in the care and possession of the Vermont Historical Society. It is placed in the entrance lobby of the State Library Building in Montpelier.

CERTIFICATE OF DONATION

This certifies that, for the purpose of permanent exhibition in some proper place where it may be viewed by the public, there has been donated to the

STATE OF VERMONT

by the Department of the Treasury of the United States of America a reproduction of the original Liberty Bell procured for exhibition in that State during the 1950 Independence Drive of the United States Savings Bond program.

This bell (the original of which is in Independence Hall, Philadelphia) was cast in Annecy-le-Vieux, France, and imported free of duty as an article intended for permanent noncommercial exhibition by a state or other nonprofit organization, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Tariff Act.

It is the hope of the Department of the Treasury that this bell will serve forever as a symbol to the people of Vermont of the independence which is their priceless heritage.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the Department of the Treasury of the United States of America to be affixed, on this 4th day of July, 1950, at the City of Washington in the District of Columbia.

SEAL

John W. Synder,
Secretary of the Treasury

CERTIFICATE

THAT

ACCOMPANIED

THE

LIBERTY BELL

LIBERTY BELL — 1950 VERSION

"It is the hope of the Department of the Treasury that this bell will serve forever as a symbol to the people of Vermont of the independence which is their priceless heritage." This is the last paragraph of the certificate of donation, signed by John S. Snyder, the Secretary of the U. S. Treasury, and, in his own words, " . . . recites our purpose in giving this bell to your State."

On July 14th, Governor Harold J. Arthur accepted, for the State of Vermont, the reproduction of the Liberty Bell of 1776 which toured our state in behalf of the Treasury's Independence Bond Drive. It has now been placed in the custody of this Society and is properly set up at the entrance to the Museum, for all to view.

The story behind the drive is most interesting. The bell represents a substantial sum of money which was donated to the United States Government as a patriotic act, jointly by six American copper companies — copper being the principal ingredient of the bronze from which it was cast. The Ford Motor Company donated the special red white and blue truck which was used to convey the bell around the state so that the many Vermonters who may never see the original bell in Independence Hall at Philadelphia might see exactly what it looked like and hear how it sounded when it proclaimed liberty "throughout the land." Moreover, for 115 years since it cracked, no American has heard its true sound. We can now.

The bell has been on a month's tour of the state, traveled 2,470 miles and visited approximately 175 cities, towns and villages. Historic sites, including Bennington Battle Monument, Constitution House at Windsor, and the birthplace of Calvin Coolidge, were on the itinerary.

The famous bell foundry of Georges Paccard's Sons at Annecy-le-Vieux, Haute Savoie, France, near the Swiss border, was chosen for the production of the bells, which are exact duplicates of the original before it cracked in 1835. (The crack is indicated on the surface.) The wooden yoke to which the original bell is fastened and its iron straps and bolts were faithfully copied. The axle rests on two wishbone-shaped supports of bronzed steel reproducing those that upheld the Liberty Bell on its display platform in Independence Hall. Did you know that the original was first cast in London in 1752 and twice recast in Philadelphia in 1753? The London bell cracked during its first trial, and the first recast in Philadelphia had a displeasing tone. The historic Bell is the third one cast from the same metal. There was still another, but its final fate is something of a mystery.

We have come a long way in the communication of news and ideas since the original was hung in 1753 to summon the people of Philadelphia to hear important news, often days or weeks after the event, but the message inscribed on the Bell remains a challenge to free men everywhere — "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land and to all the inhabitants thereof. Lev. XXV, 10."

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

History of Silver Lake Camp Meeting (near Brandon, Vermont) by Reverend E. Davies, Evangelist (ca 1880). This is only a 20 page account, but gives the story of camp meetings, at Silver Lake, which began in 1879 — "a harvest-field for souls."

Manuscript book containing notes on the *"Theory and Practice of Medicine From the Lectures of William Tully, M. D."*, taken during lecture terms of 1828-29 by C. V. Dyer at Vermont Academy of Medicine, Castleton (Vt.). This book includes prescriptions, dosages, etc. For instance, we find a "Dead Shott for Rheumatism" and "To stop bleeding from the nose, take salted beefe, grated, use as snuff."

Time books — dating 1879-1880, 1890-1891, maintained at Ely Mines (Copperfield), town of Vershire, Vermont. At random, we come upon Ths. Anderson, who worked 26¼ days during October, 1879, and earned 39 cents a day. But "D. Johnson and oxen" were paid at the rate of 70¼ cents each day. These mines were the most flourishing in this section of the country at that time, supported a population of 2000, and in one year produced and shipped three million pounds of copper, then worth more than 20 cents per pound. At the peak of production, the Ely Mines turned out three-fifths of the entire copper output of the United States. And what happened to the great mines? In 1883, the "Ely War" occurred, with 300 unpaid miners rising to collect $25,000 back wages; this act created an industrial tragedy, and three townships were eventually desolated. (Gift of George A. Suitor, Barre).

CORRECTION PLEASE

Headmaster Laurence G. Leavitt of Vermont Academy has very kindly brought to our attention the fact that we referred to James Taylor in our newsletter of July as *Principal* of the Academy. His correct title was *Associate Principal*. Dr. George B. Lawson was principal at the time that Mr. Taylor started his work with the Green Mountain Club on the Long Trail in 1910.

REMEMBER US

Our 112 year old Society has outlasted many wars because the values in human experience we represent are lasting, but wars and rumors of war inevitably have their impact in the slowing-down of the memberships peace might bring. We hope the faithful will scan their friends for additional names of those who might join and send them to us. We will do the rest. We hope to achieve 2,000 members by January — now we have about 1125. We find that *gift* memberships are warmly greeted. So please keep us in mind as you go about your daily pilgrimage.

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POSTAGE PAID BY
STATE OF VERMONT

H. V. Norton
St. Ignace, Mich.

SUPPLEMENT to the VHS NEWS AND NOTES
Vol. 1 August 1950 No. 12

TRAGEDY'S OTHER NAME

He was cleaning out the old papers of the farm, and the bonfire was burning briskly. While he chatted with the friend with me, I went to the bonfire. The first old book I turned over, partly afire, was a first edition copy of Allen's *Narrative of His Captivity*. Other documents, already half-burned, I could see were priceless. This is a sad and tragic story endlessly repeated — "Oh, I found a lot of old papers in the attic — belonged to grandfather; so we burned them up to get rid of them and clean the old place up." Elsewhere in Vermont, under a pile of rubbish in a basement the original report of an early convention was found. The simple word is this — *Don't burn up old papers!* Look them over — see what they are — don't try to judge their value unless trained to do so. Diaries, old manuscripts, deeds, account books, letters of all kinds, old books, any or all of these, may contain material that is of lasting value. Whether you live far or near, we will welcome a letter telling us in a general way what you have or have found. We will do the rest. VHS is 112 years old; it will be here as long as Vermont lasts. A fireproof building, fireproof vaults, careful filing and preservation by a trained and devoted staff — all these at no cost. Documents and other items can be filed as "On Loan," and carefully recorded in the name of the lender or donor. A Director is haunted by rumors of letters or documents or objects wandering from one family to another, kept in places subject to fire, carelessness in a hundred forms; and there is always the possibility that relics and documents that grandfather treasured will mean nothing to grandfather's descendants. Tragedy's other name is oblivion. A. W. P.

HOMESTEAD INAUGURAL

This engaging story of the lamplight inaugural of President Coolidge is still available through our Bookshelf Service at 50 cents and postage. Lowell Thomas said of the story: "I have just finished reading 'Homestead Inaugural' and enjoyed it immensely." President Hoover: "It is a useful contribution to American history." Senator Austin: "I shall place 'Homestead Inaugural' among my historical documents on Vermont." One 88-year-old Wisconsin farmer wanted a free copy because he had voted the straight Republican ticket all his life." [These quotations were taken from a publicity story by the publishers. Ed.] The booklet will probably become, one of these days, a valuable collector's item.

THE VERMONT WAY

Plainfield's 100-year-old Town Hall was given a thorough renovating by local volunteer workmen under the direction of the Rev. Harry Lindley and Mr. Newton Davis, the men and women of the community lending a willing hand. * * * The Hartland Historical Society is planning to mark the grave of the town's first settler, Timothy Lull. One of our members, Col. T. C. Lull, is a direct descendant of Timothy. Harold G. Rugg, one of our curators, is president of the Society.

HAVE YOU A QUESTION?

If you have a question with even a faint historical flavor, do not hesitate to send it along. Some questions we will be able to answer; others will certainly "stump" us, and then we will call for aid from our members and others. We will answer questions of general interest in *News and Notes*.

Here is one: *What are the state flowers of the New England States?* Maine—pine cone and plume or tassel; New Hampshire—purple lilac; Massachusetts—mayflower; Connecticut—mountain laurel; Rhode Island—violet; Vermont—red clover. *And the state birds:* Maine and Massachusetts—black capped chickadee; New Hampshire—purple finch; Rhode Island—bobwhite; Connecticut—robin; Vermont—hermit thrush.

Mrs. W. H. Wardwell, Springfield, Mass., raises the question of "love spoons". She writes: "The young men (Welsh) made these spoons in the 16th to the 19th centuries. They carved them in the winter months, according to the one authority, and presented them each to his respective lady-love in the spring. If she accepted the spoon, they became engaged and were married; then the spoons were hung on the wall and treasured elsewhere as a beloved love-symbol." Anybody ever hear of them in Vermont? Perhaps our Welsh folks down Granby-Poultney way can help us out.

A. W. P.

SOMETHING OLD — SOMETHING NEW

A new member, Colonel Fred S. Kent, who heads the Selective Service System in the State, has offered to the Society the flaxwheel which has been in his family for generations and is believed to have belonged to the household of Colonel Jacob Davis, Revolutionary veteran, pioneer leader and settler of Montpelier in 1788. Mrs. Kent, too, has reasons for depositing the flaxwheel in the Society's Museum. Hers was the Wheaton family, which owned and operated the quarry producing the granite for the second State House, completed in October 1838. We note from the record: "Teams composed of four horses and a yoke of oxen left Barre at 4 o'clock in the morning, arriving at the quarries, loaded with the aid of skids and rolls, and then drove to Montpelier, unloaded and returned to Barre, arriving home at 10 o'clock — eighteen hours — 25 miles." Although the 2nd State House burned, that granite was saved for restoration into the present State House, or third building.

Thank you, Colonel and Mrs. Kent.

THETFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Thetford Historical Society spent the greater part of the day on Saturday, July 22nd, at your Museum and Library. Headed by President Richard Fowle, a group of twenty-six members and friends came in cars, browsed around during the morning, had a picnic lunch at Hubbard Park (Montpelier) and proceeded to Kents' Tavern at Kents' Corner, Calais. It made an interesting day and your staff was glad to be on hand.

OUR GRAND LADY

Just a word — although many more are warranted — to tell you that Mrs. Mary Greene Nye has turned over her work to another. Under authority of the Secretary of State, Mrs. Nye has spent years bringing to light many valuable manuscript documents from every nook and cranny where they had lain for more than a century. Long before others in Vermont became conscious of the value of the obscure records, Mrs. Nye was carrying on extensive research in early State history and indexing and editing official State papers. It was through her painstaking work that this invaluable mine of information was made available.

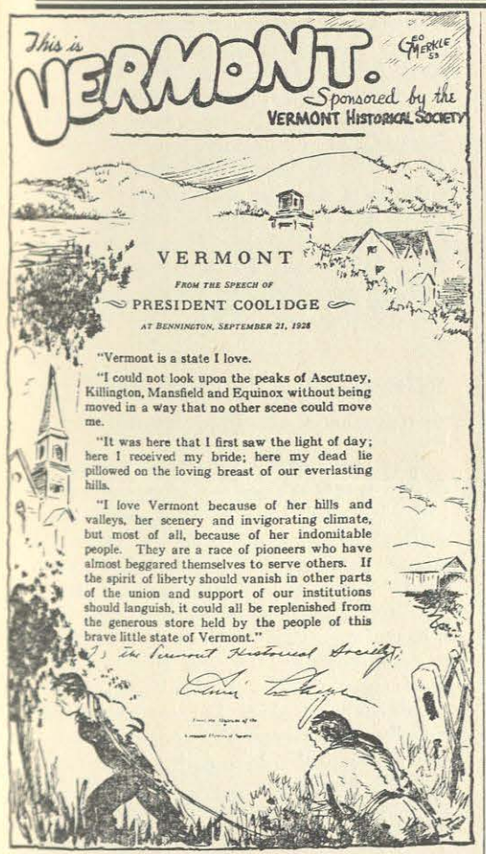
Well-known to historians throughout this country and Canada, Mrs. Mary G. Nye is truly the State's grand lady.

THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MONTPELIER, VERMONT

News & Notes

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

Volume 2 September 1950 Number 1


This is
VERMONT.
Sponsored by the
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
VERMONT
FROM THE SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT COOLIDGE
AT BENNINGTON, SEPTEMBER 21, 1928
"Vermont is a state I love.
"I could not look upon the peaks of Ascutney, Killington, Mansfield and Equinox without being moved in a way that no other scene could move me.
"It was here that I first saw the light of day; here I received my bride; here my dead lie pillowed on the loving breast of our everlasting hills.
"I love Vermont because of her hills and valleys, her scenery and invigorating climate, but most of all, because of her indomitable people. They are a race of pioneers who have almost beggared themselves to serve others. If the spirit of liberty should vanish in other parts of the union and support of our institutions should languish, it could all be replenished from the generous store held by the people of this brave little state of Vermont."

VERMONT NEWSPAPERS CARRY SPECIAL FEATURE

V. H. S. Popularizes History

We have mentioned from time to time the series of cartoons, *This is Vermont,* sponsored by your Society and carried by the *Barre Daily Times,* the *Brattleboro Reformer,* the *Burlington Free Press,* and the *Rutland Herald.* (We hope to extend the service to others.) We have quoted editorials praising the series — and our little hints have apparently aroused your curiosity. Those of you who have not had access to the dailies that carry them have asked for leaflets or proofs — or something. So here is an illustration of one used during the second week of July. One of these days, with the assistance of good friends of the Society on the financial end, we hope to be able to publish a book of the cartoons. It should be of exceptional value to teachers and our schools in addition to adult readers generally who like history in pictures as well as text.

It is said that ours is the only Society in the country sponsoring such a series. We were fortunate in obtaining the services of George Merkle, now of Bartonsville (Vt.), who is an old Chicago Tribune man, as late as 1947. His strip was the leader for the Trib's Sunday comic section.

Our series is weekly and was started the first week in July of last year, in a 2-column by six inch size. And as with our other educational projects, we had to make the cartoon panel idea self-supporting. The newspapers were in accord on the cost and your staff contributes its research, etc. So we are now in our second year, with plans to make them available to Vermont's weeklies. (For those of you who are technically minded, we have a cut or engraving made and issue the mats from here to reach the newspapers for a Thursday deadline.)

We may even project them into the advertising field. Did we not have a request from a Montpelier maple sugar firm that they be permitted to purchase the right to use a specific one as a label for their syrup cans this spring?

VERMONT'S BUCCANEER

A Pirate In Vermont in 1880

Did you ever hear that Vermont had a pirate? We hadn't.

The story comes from Middlesex (Vermont). Around the year 1880, we are told